(b) Bacterial-wilt-resistant chilli variety, Anugraha has been developed by Kerala Agricultural University, Vellanikkara, Thrissur. This variety bears long, light green and medium pungent fruits. The average yield of green chilli fruits is 27 tonnes per hectare.

(c) This variety has already been released by the Kerala State Variety Release Committee in 2002 for commercial cultivation in the State.

Drought assistance to Bihar

†4353. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the damage caused to various crops in Bihar due to the fury of cold wave/drought;

(b) whether Government have formulated any package for affected farmers and fruit growers of Bihar; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the relief funds are likely to be provided to affected farmers of Bihar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) Cold wave is not one of the natural calamities identified by the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) for relief assistance from Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). The Government of Bihar has not reported drought situation during 2002-03 and no report on damage to crops due to drought has been received from the State Government.

Crop Adjustment Programme

4354. SHRI KARTAR SINGH DUGGAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) how the Centre has reacted to "Crop Adjustment Programme" mooted by the agriculture scientists of Punjab under the guidance of eminent agriculture scientist, Dr. S. S. Johl;

(b) how the Centre propose to encourage it in the context of Second Green Revolution for the country; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it could be tried in other States also and if so, to what advantage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Crop Adjustment Programme proposed by the Government of Punjab mooted by Dr. S.S. Johl needs to be examined carefully, keeping in view the food security as well as problems of soil fertility and water management.

(b) Crop diversification is a national issue keeping in view the natural resources *viz.* the soil health problems and availability of irrigation water which is depleting year after year. Diversification does not aim at Second Green Revolution but to shift area from exhaustive crops like rice, wheat to soil restorative crops *viz.*, oilseeds, pulses and fodder crops etc.

(c) Diversification is being advocated during National Conference being organised every year before Kharif and Rabi seasons considering the merit of bringing sustainability in agricultural production conserving natural resources.

Availability of quality seeds

4355. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the absence of availability of quality seeds farmers have been affected at large;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether superior seeds varieties have been made available through National Seeds Board ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The availability of certified/quality seed was 103.96 lakh quintals against the requirement of 94.76 lakh quintals during the year 2002-03.

(c) No, Sir The National Seeds Board is not in existence.